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two feet. It had two bodies joined at the one neck, which supported one head, which had two mouths, one under the other. After a few hours the mother cat deliberately killed the kitten by biting it through the neck. Surely this was the exercise of the mother's reason on the line of the survival of the fittest.—*S. Lockwood.*

*Feline Prescience.*—I must give a fact which was communicated to me many years ago by an old physician, of which the good old man assured me he was an eye witness. In his house were two cats, each with a litter of kittens but a few days old. One of the cats was very young, it was her first litter, and the older cat was her mother. It was noticed that the younger cat did not seem well. Each one had her litter by herself, although both were in the same room. As the old cat lay suckling her own litter, the young cat came to her mother and made a low mewing, then went to her own litter. The old cat followed her and immediately began removing the grand-kittens, adding them to her own. The truth was she had adopted them, and seemingly at the request of their mother, for not many minutes more had elapsed before they were orphaned by their mother's death.—*S. Lockwood.*

POETRY IN DREAMS.—It is not unusual for persons addicted to dreaming to compose verses, blank or rhyming, but it is rarely that such productions are remembered on waking. A near relative of one of the editors, known by his family to possess considerable facility in this direction, frequently dreamed in verse. On a few occasions he remembered a few lines of these productions. We append them as curiosities. The first is single line:

“The copest leaves do hum exasperated horrors round!”

The second:

“The ship of the desert is vanished forever,  
Like music dried up in the bed of a river.”

Another:

“Emaciated swallows floating through the air,  
Two legs flung out behind, and two before.”

—C.

#### ANTHROPOLOGY.<sup>1</sup>

CHINESE COINS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.—In the summer of 1882 a miner found on De Foe (Deorse?) creek, Cassiar district, Br. Columbia, thirty Chinese coins in the auriferous sand, twenty-five feet below the surface. They appeared to have been strung, but on taking them up the miner let them drop apart. The earth above and around them was as compact as any in the neighborhood. One of these coins I examined at the store of Chu Chong

<sup>1</sup> Edited by Professor OTIS T. MASON, 1305 Q street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

in Victoria. Neither in metal nor markings did it resemble the modern coins, but in its figures looked more like an Aztec calendar. So far as I can make out the markings, this is a Chinese chronological cycle of sixty years, invented by the Emperor Huangti, 2637 B. C., and circulated in this form to make his people remember it.—*James Deans.*

FUEGIAN ETHNOLOGY.—Professor A. H. Keane, in *Nature*, August 9, reviews a paper in Guido Cora's *Cosmos* for May, written by Lieut. Bove, of the Italian Antarctic expedition, in which occur some interesting details on the Fuegians. The archipelago is occupied by three races, the Alacalufs in the west, the Onas in the east, and the Yagans in the south. The latter, extending from the north side of Beagle channel southward to Cape Horn, appear to be the true aborigines, driven to their inhospitable islands by the other two tribes intruding from the mainland. The Onas, who are clearly of Tehuelche origin, penetrated from Patagonia across the eastern arm of Magellan strait into the large island of King Charles South Land. The Alacalufs, of Araucanian stock, made their way from the Chilian Andes, across the western arm of Magellan strait into the islands from Cape Pillar to Stewart island. The Onas number about 2000, the other two about 3000 each. The Yagans appear to have been originally of the same stock as the Alacalufs, they are below the middle height, though nearly as tall as the Araucanians. They are distinguished by low brows, prominent zygomatic arches, large pendant lips, flat nose, round face, loose, wrinkly skin, thin extremities, legs curved outward, hair coarse, lank, long and black, with few exceptions. They neither tattoo nor paint, and are scantily clad. Their houses are wretched hovels, but their beechwood canoes are skillfully made. In these frail craft they navigate the stormy channels, pursuing the whale and the dolphin beyond sight of land. The Yagans are polygamists and exacting of their wives, who are prolific, however, and industrious. Many children succumb to the climate, and those who survive soon shift for themselves. Little of social organization exists beyond the family and the hunting party. The belief in the supernatural and in a future existence seems to be little developed. The statement that the language contains 30,000 vocables is received by Mr. Keane with extreme caution.

THE ATLANTIS.—M. E. F. Berlioux, professor of geography in the faculty of letters, Lyon, has just published a learned work entitled "Les Atlantes: histoire de l'Atlantis et de l'Atlas Primitif, ou Introduction a l'histoire de l'Europe" (Paris, Ernest Leroux, 1883, pp. 170, 8vo). The question of Atlantis rests upon an Egyptian tradition related by Solon, and preserved by Plato in the *Timæus* and the *Critias*. For all the events related in this tradition, the dates and the geographical positions, there is always

a double interpretation, one giving to the statements exaggerated meanings, the other regarding them as ordinary facts accessible to discussion. Now students have considered the subject from the first point of view only, regarding Atlantis as a continent in the center of the Atlantic ocean, from which a great expedition was made nine or ten thousand years before our era, and which was one day engulfed in the sea. In this form the legend is so seductive to the imagination as to place patient research out of the question. Even those who have given any historic value to the narrative have placed the events so far back as to antedate criticism.

In fact, the lands of the Atlas are not only rich in souvenirs found in books, but they are filled with monuments some of which belong to the most remote ages and of which it becomes us to study the history. The dolmens are more numerous than those of Armorica, and it is here that we must seek one end of that long line of megalithic monuments whose other extremity is to be found in India. The tumuli mark a second epoch, and their lines are not arrested by the ocean, they reappear on American soil. Along side of these rude structures appear the remains of others belonging to a still higher civilization. Indeed, M. Berloux has sought to reconstruct the history of this Northeast African land. Those of our readers who attended the Montreal meeting of the American Association will recall Mr. Haliburton's paper on the same subject, and they will be pleased to know that Mr. Haliburton is at this time traversing the edge of the Great Sahara with the classic authors in his hand.

THE GERMAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The fourteenth general meeting of the German Anthropological Society was held the present year at Trier, on the 9th, 10th and 11th August, Professor R. Virchow, president. The preliminary programme is devoted to the general business of the meeting, and mentions only a few of the papers to be read.

THE WESTERN SCIENTIST.—Ottumwa, Iowa, is to be the home of a new periodical devoted to science, and Mr. Crawford is to be the editor. The first number presents a comely appearance, though most readers object to quarto periodicals. Mr. Samuel B. Evans contributes a paper on the Des Moines Valley mounds.

THE GREAT INDEX CATALOGUE.—Volume IV of the "Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, U. S. Army," has just appeared. There are two things in these volumes which we recommend to all anthropologists. The first is the alphabetical list of abbreviations of periodicals and societies; the whole subject is in dire confusion elsewhere, but here it is reduced to a rigid system. The second valuable thing is the great number of references to matters eminently anthropological. In

the present volume one should examine the words, *ear*, *Ecker*, *education*, *embalming*, *embryology*, *emigrants*, *emotions*, *engineering* (sanitary), *epidemics*, *ethics of medicine*, *ethnology* (seven pages), *eunuchs*, *evidence* (medical), *evolution* and *face*. Indeed many anthropological references occur under more general words, such as *eye*, *face*, etc.

INDIAN NAMES OF WATER-COURSES.—Some one has said that the perishable is, after all, the most enduring. There is nothing in art more fragile than pottery or glass, yet either of them in its fragments outlasts bronze or marble. The same is true of words. Some of the tribes once puissant in the States east of the Mississippi have absolutely faded from the earth, yet they have left the evidences of their former power in the names of the natural features. Mr. H. W. Beckwith, of Danville, Illinois, has done a good service in publishing a list of these names for Indiana, in the State Geological Survey for 1882. Many of the titles were collected and defined by the late Daniel Hough. An excellent map accompanies the paper.

THE MAUMEE.—Ottawasepoie, *Ottawa river*, by the Shawnees. Cagharenduteie, *River of the standing rock*, by the Wyandottes.

THE ST. MARY'S.—Cokothekeseipoie, *Kettle river*, by the Shawnees.

THE WABASH.—Waubas, *white*, and Wabish, *water*, in Algonkin. Quiaaghtena, in Iroquois.

THE MISSISSINIEWA.—From missi and assin, with ewa, inanimate termination, signifying *River of great stones*.

TIPPECANOE.—Kenonge, *the long-billed pike*.

RED-WOOD CREEK.—Musqua-metgi-sepe, *Red-wood river*, in Ojibwa.

PINE CREEK.—Puckgwunnashgamucksepe, *white pine tree of the bark-peeling kind*, in Ojibwa.

WILDCAT.—Pishewa, in Shawnee, Ojibwa and Miami.

KANKAKU.—Theakiki, *wolf land*, in Mohegan.

IROQUOIS.—Mockabella, from moqua, *bear*, in Kickapoo. Pickamink, *beaver*, in Pottawattomi.

BEAVER LAKE.—Sagayiganuhnickyug, *the lake of the beavers*.

WHITE RIVER.—Opecomeecah, in Delaware.

VERMILION.—Piaukeshaw, *red earth*, *burnt earth*.

EEL RIVER.—Kenabegwinmaig, *Snake-fish river*.

OHIO.—Oio, *beautiful*, in Iroquois. Akanseas, by Aliinies and Illinois, because the Akanseas formerly dwelt upon it.

THE KANAKAS OF NEW CALEDONIA.—The people of New Caledonia are the subject of a paper by Baron L. de Vaux, who has added to his own experience the knowledge gained by consulting the works of others. The islands are not remarkable for the luxuriance of their tropical growth, because the geological formation is not favorable. The people of to-day also seem to be in a state of degradation, not being engaged in those great and elaborate enterprises which distinguished their ancestors, such as long aqueducts, terraced plantations of ignames, fortifications, etc. The New Caledonians are not so dark as the Negroes but more

darkly colored than the Polynesians. They have crisped hair, salient lips, noses artificially flattened, and the ears pierced in the lower lobe. The beard is quite abundant, although many do not allow it to grow. They wear no clothing. The height of the women, poor creatures who are only beasts of burden, is below the mean. Pretty up to the fifteenth year, they soon become decrepid by reason of severe toil and harsh usage. Old age is rare. Frequent wars, chronic diseases, epidemics, carelessness about the laws of health, sudden changes of occupation, and above all, the enfeeblement of the mothers, are sufficient to account for the brevity of life. The women belong to the tribe and to their purchasers, hence courtship and marriage in a true sense are unknown. Betrothals take place early, and are effected by the exchange of gifts, they are binding only when the bachelor sends to his fiancée a collar of a certain pattern. Finally, to complete the engagement, both drink from the same cup a fermented liquor specially prepared. Infidelity in the wife is punished by precipitating her from a celebrated cliff. The pastimes of the men consist of athletic sports, and they drive away dull care with the music of a rude flute and the recitation of ancient legends. One of their favorite weapons is the *sagaie*, which they hurl by means of a short cord, looped at one end for the forefinger, and knotted at the other to make fast temporarily to the shaft. Those who have seen a seine landed by men with just such a looped and knotted cord passed around their shoulders and wrapped once around the seine rope, will understand the working of this savage sling. The paper of Baron de Vaux abounds in useful information which the want of space does not even permit us to mention (*Rev. d'Ethnog.*, II, 327-354).

FRENCH ETHNOLOGY.—The fourth part of Vol. II, *Revue d'Ethnographie*, Paris, contains the following original memoirs :

The Ghiliaks, from the latest sources of information. By J. Deniker.

The use of Mollusks among ancient and modern peoples II. Mollusks of the tombs of Equador and New Guinea (6 figs.). By A. F. de Rochebrune.

Ethnographic observations in the peninsula of California and Sonora (5 figs.). By H. Tenkate.

The Kanakas of New Guinea (13 figs.). By Baron L. de Vaux.

The Ghiliaks are that people who live at the mouth of the Amoor and on the adjacent shore of Saghalin. They belong, with the Yukagirs, etc., to the vast family of tribes called by Schrenck the Paleasiatics.

The use of mollusks among the S. American aborigines of the Pacific coast was very restricted, both as regards species and classes of specimens, and this fact is more apparent in Ecuador and New Grenada, than in Peru.

The southern peninsula of California is almost devoid of interest to the anthropologist. Ancient relics are rare, and the pure

blood Pericuis and Coras give place to mixed-bloods, in which the foreign element has almost entirely obliterated every aboriginal trace.

The Kanakas of New Caledonia are of Negrito stock, and the Baron de Vaux has diligently supplemented his own personal observations by the study of original authorities.

The last thirty pages of the number are devoted to reviews, reports of meetings, expositions and collections, correspondence, news and bibliography.

The third part of Vol. XVI of *Rev. de Linguistique*, Paris, is devoted entirely to Sanscrit and Hindustanee.

The second fascicule of the *Bulletins de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris*, publishes the following papers of general interest:

On the poisoned arrows of the North American Indians. By G. Lagneau.

Discussion upon Polyandry in Asia—Kachmir and Thibet. Study in ancient and modern ethnography. By O. Beauregard and M. de Ujfalvy.

Anatomical significance of the chief humeral of the biceps muscle. By M. Leo Testut.

On the races of Oceanica. By M. Cauvin.

Report on the brain of Louis Asseline. By MM. Mathias Duval, Chudzinski and Hervé.

Discussion upon the poisoned arrows of the North American Indians. By MM. Prat and G. de Mortillet.

The traces of ancient religions in Central Asia and to the south of the Hindoo Koosh. By Ch. E. de Ujfalvy.

Morphologic description of the brain of Assezat. By MM. Mathias Duval, Chudzinski and Hervé.

Upon the "Tablier" and steatopygia among the Bushman women. By Dr. Raphael Blanchard.

Human sacrifices among the Khonds of India. By E. Reclus.

The population of Western Laos. By Carl Bock.

Discussion upon the Couvade among the Basques. By J. Vinson and G. Lagneau.

Morphological description of the brain of Coudereau. By MM. Duval, Chudzinski and Hervé.

Influence of alimentation upon the milk. By G. de Mortillet.

The prehistoric Passo. By M. Chauvei.

The most interesting papers of general interest are the reports on the brains of Louis Asseline, M. Assezat and M. Coudereau.

THE CONGRESS OF AMERICANISTS. — In 1875 a gathering of Americanists took place at Nancy, France, and organized the Congrès International des Americanistes, which has assembled by adjournment every two years since that date—once each at Brussels, Luxembourg, Madrid and Copenhagen.

In 1883 the session began at Copenhagen on August 21st. It was opened with all due formality in the magnificent hall of the university, in the presence of the king, the royal family, the Princess of Wales (then on a visit to her parents), the chief ministers of State, and many distinguished visitors and citizens. Official delegates were present from the governments of Denmark, France, Belgium, Spain and Italy, and from learned societies in

Germany, Colombia and the United States, though we regret to say that our own country had only one representative at any time during the congress.

The opening session was presided over by the eminent archæologist, Professor Worsaae, who delivered the address of welcome. He referred to the close relations which Scandinavia and Denmark had maintained, for nearly a thousand years, with Iceland, Greenland and Northern America, described some of the voyages of the Northmen, and called attention to a model of one of their ancient ships which was exhibited in the hall. He was followed by M. Fabie (the delegate from Spain), M. Lucien Adam (from France), and M. Anatole Bamps (from Belgium). The address of the latter gave a brief but masterly sketch of the evidence of the existence of palæolithic man in America, and asked the especial attention of the congress to this subject. Not only, said the speaker, is the testimony now ample that man existed in America at the close of the glacial epoch, but we are even justified in saying that from a comparison of similar discoveries in the two hemispheres, the human race appears to have occupied America at an epoch anterior to any of which we have yet evidence in Asia or Europe.

At the session of the following day, the same topic was brought up by M. Lütken, who described the human remains found in caverns in Brazil by the late Dr. Lund. They were intimately associated with the bones of extinct animals, and gave proof of a high antiquity. M. Reiss, of Berlin, described similar results from his own researches in Brazil and in Buenos Ayres.

A variety of new materials for the history of Columbus's voyages was epitomized by M. Herrera, who has collected a mass of unexpected information from unpublished documents in Spain. Thus, contrary to what has been often stated, he shows that Columbus actually landed on the mainland of the continent at a number of points.

During the second day two papers were presented in English. One was by Mr. Löffler, on the discovery of Vinland by the ancient Scandinavians. He refuted the opinion of the historian Bancroft that the Icelandic *sagas* are without historical value, and argued that Vinland should be located as far south as the State of Virginia. The other paper was by Dr. Brinton, of Philadelphia, one of the vice-presidents of the congress, and the only delegate from the United States. It was a sketch of the literature by native authors in the aboriginal tongues of America.

Another paper in English was read the following day by M. Steenstrup. The subject was the ruins of ancient European colonies which are discovered in unexpected spots in Greenland. No record of these settlements remain beyond obscure allusions in the *sagas*, which have been called in question. But it is evident that a much larger population once existed in that inclement



country than at present, and that the references in the *sagas* are quite trustworthy.

On the 23d, a valuable communication was received from Baron Nordenskjöld. The celebrated navigator had directed that each member of the congress should be presented with an engraved *fac-simile* of a map dating from before the year 1482, on which was represented Greenland and perhaps some outline of the northern portion of the continent. For various reasons, he argued that this map was the production of an Italian who had visited the Faroë islands. This chart and the subject in general were ably discussed at a later hour by M. Steenstrup and Admiral Irminger, who threw much light on the origin of the celebrated "map of Zeno." The extensive voyages through the North-western waters by the Northmen were further proved in an excellent paper by M. Brynjulfson. He recited an Icelandic poem of about the year 1100, which describes what is now known as Melville bay, and quoted a letter, still extant, of a priest, giving a narrative of his voyage in 1266 as far as what is now Smith's sound. The descriptions of localities in it are so accurate that they can be readily identified.

How it happened that the really extensive geographical knowledge and profitable fisheries, colonies and commercial relations which the Northmen established with Greenland and vicinity between A. D. 1000 and 1450 became neglected and at last forgotten by themselves, was satisfactorily explained in a long and learned memoir by M. Valdemar Schmidt.

In the domain of archæology, two well-prepared papers on native American ceramics were presented by MM. Bamps and Rada. The former announced the important fact that all varieties and colors of American pottery, from the elaborate workmanship of Peru to the rude efforts of the hunting tribes, are invariably of one uniform *pâte*, not of several different colors or consistencies. Whatever differences there may be due to the mixing of the clay, to the burning, to external coloring, or other such extrinsic treatment. The decoration of native pottery, as well as the theory of aboriginal ornamentation in general, was discussed in an entertaining paper by M. Stolpe.

It has long been known that various savage tribes perform an operation on the skull similar to that called by surgeons "trephining." The occurrence of this in several American nations was described by M. de Baye.

The changes of level in the different parts of the American continent, and their effect on population, were shown by M. Vera, who brought together many striking facts to illustrate the vast geologic oscillations which are in progress.

In American linguistics, the principal contributions were a learned paper by Dr. Rink on the Eskimo tongue, and some remarks on the Kiché and Timucua by other members. The

question of the decipherment of the mysterious hieroglyphs of Yucatan was broached, but it was agreed that little progress had been made in this attractive branch of archæology.

One gratifying fact must be recorded to the credit of those who assisted in this congress. So many antiquaries have made themselves and their study ridiculous by absurd theories, that one always has a dread that this fate will overtake an assemblage of the kind. To be sure, there were a few threatening symptoms of such an outbreak. The Celtomaniac was heard from who wanted to identify some American language with the Welsh, the ancient Atlantis was not wholly submerged out of sight, and the missionary journey of the Apostle St. Thomas to Mexico in A. D. 50 would come up for a little while; but the good sense of the majority soon suppressed these wasters of time.

The occasion was a fine one for practice in languages. The congress has no official tongue, and though most of the proceedings were in French the papers and debates were alternately in that language and in German, English, Spanish and Danish. The sessions closed with an excursion in the picturesque landscapes around Copenhagen, and it is safe to say that every member of the body returned to his home enriched with information on the subject of his studies, and with a sentiment of warm friendliness to the hospitable and intelligent Danish people.

The next meeting of the congress will be at Turin, in 1885.—*D. G. B.*

#### MICROSCOPY.<sup>1</sup>

METHODS OF PREVENTING THE ROLLING OF MICROTOMIC SECTIONS.—The section-smoother described in the last number of the *NATURALIST* appears to be the best instrument yet devised for the prevention of section-rolling, not excepting the ingenious device of Schulze, described below.

Besides the section-smoother, there are other means by which the rolling of sections may be prevented. It may be effected by rendering the paraffine softer and less elastic through the addition of a small quantity of vaseline, by the aid of brush or spatula held over the object by the left hand during the process of cutting, and lastly—and most effectively—by placing the knife at right angles to the carrier. The discovery of the fact that sections may be cut without rolling by giving the knife a transverse instead of an oblique position, was made by Mr. Caldwell, and at about the same time by Professor Mark. Since the discovery of this method, it has come very rapidly into general use, and now Jung's microtome is supplied with "transverse" as well as "oblique knives." This method, excellent as it is, especially with small objects, does not suffice in all cases, and does not therefore remove the necessity of a section-smoother. Even with the

<sup>1</sup> Edited by Dr. C. O. WHITMAN, Mus. Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.